

Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes - FINAL

December 4, 2015, 9:00 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

AAA Michigan General Offices, 1 Auto Drive Dr., Dearborn, MI 48126

Attendance

Present: Asim Alavi, Nasim Ansari, Connie Dang, Jamie Hsu, Roland Hwang, Soraya Kim, Anand Kumar, Mahima Mahadevan, Toshiki Masaki, Joe Tasma, and Tsu-Yin Wu

Present by Phone: Willie Dechavez, David Long, Ryan Rosario and Jeffrey Vang

Ex-officio and Guests: Agustin Arbulu, Director of MDCR, State Representative Stephanie Chang, Bing Goei, MONA, Kimberly Hekman, MHHS, Steve Mitchell, Mitchell Research & Communication Inc. and Sheryl Weir, MHHS

Staff: Mary McLellan, MAPAAC Commission Liaison-MDCR and Denise Yee Grim, MAPAAC Community Liaison

Unable to attend: Scott T. Ayotte, Hannah Feikema, Jin-Kyu Koh, Grace Lee and Guozhen Lu

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Jamie Hsu called the regular meeting of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:04 a.m. on December 4, 2015.

Jamie extended thanks to AAA Michigan for hosting the meeting. Mr. Randy Williams, Vice President of Sales and Services of AAA Michigan, welcomed the commissioners and shared information about AAA Michigan's services.

Jamie introduced the new executive director of MDCR, Dr. Agustin Arbulu. Dr. Arbulu shared with us his priorities and his desire to serve the APA communities on any civil right issues.

Jamie congratulated and acknowledged Nasim Ansari for being elected Mayor Pro Temp for the City of Portage, Willie Dechavez for receiving the Sterling Heights' diversity and community service award, Roland Hwang for being elected to the Northville school board and awarded a civil rights award from NOBLE (the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives), and Anand Kumar for receiving many community service awards.

II. Commissioner's terms

The Governor's appointment office has not made a decision on the status of the retiring commissioners. They have asked us to operate business as usual until further notice.

III. Approval of September 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Asim Alavi asked if there were any additional comments or questions from the draft minutes. Roland Hwang motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Joe Tasma seconded. Motion passed.

IV. 2015 Final Budget Review

Tsu-Yin Wu shared the final expenditures for the 2015 fiscal year. No concerns or questions were raised on the expenditures. Jamie thanked MDCR for including MAPAAC budget in their budget submittal to the legislatures.

V. 2015 Draft Annual Report:

Connie Dang referred to the draft copy of the report in the meeting folder. She informed that MAPAAC is required to submit an annual report outlining specific measures and outcomes we have accomplished throughout the year. She thanked all the SIG leaders for compiling and submitting their individual reports to her.

Each SIG leader shared their report at the meeting. Mahima Mahadevan reported on SIG 1. Tsu-Yin Wu reported on behalf of Ryan Rosario, for SIG 2. Roland Hwang reported on SIG 3 and Soraya Kim reported on SIG 4.

There were a few edits to the draft, which included: Change SIG 1 title, add page numbers, delete 'Draft' on the report and move Anand Kumar name in SIG 2. Jamie motioned to approved the annual report as amended, Toshiki seconded. Motion approved.

Jamie commented that MAPAAC has done a lot in data collection of the major concerns and issues from the APA community town hall meetings and survey. Next year, the commission's major effort is to take these issues and concerns and share them with the state departments and the APA legislative caucus.

Commissioners' Comments on the SIG's design and format:

The SIG model is working well and we should stay the course for 2016. The community appreciate what we are doing and that we are available to listen to their concerns. The SIGs allowed the commissioners to support other SIG's initiatives and work together successfully. The awareness of MAPAAC among our community has gone up sufficiently because of the SIGs activities.

Roland brought up a concern with respect to policy process/inputs, i.e.: Governor's position on putting a stop to Syrian refugees' influx, and how it may affect the APA community and future immigrants. Jamie recommended to SIG 1 to think about a mechanism to interact with the state agencies and the APA caucus.

Bing made the comment that Governor Snyder has never discussed his decision based on Syrian refugees only. He shared that Governor Snyder has not stopped the work of MONA and its ongoing efforts to make Michigan a welcoming state for immigrants and refugees. Michigan will continue to receive refugees from around the globe, including families from Syria and Governor Snyder has not changed his position and has publicly stated his desire to bring more immigrants and refugees to Michigan.

Dr. Arbulu gave a historical context on this issue and commented that the Governor's office has issued talking points to various state departments regarding the Syrian refugees situation. Also, the Middle Eastern American Affairs Commission took a position and issued a press release. The MDCR took a position and issued a press release denouncing any form of discrimination to any community. Each commission can take a position on the topic and make a statement. They can draft a press release and pass it through MDCR communication for approval.

VI. MAPAAC Survey Results Presentation and Q & A

Steve Mitchell of Mitchell Research and Communications Inc. presented a short summary of the survey results and answered questions.

Jamie commented that survey in general is one way of receiving information and the other way is to hold town hall meetings to receive information about their issues and concerns. The survey should not be distributed publicly. People may not understand the background and may draw wrong conclusions. If the data is given out, then it must include an explanation of the purpose of the survey and how it is used. In the strategic planning for 2016, the commission should determine

if we do a survey again and the survey questions should be designed to measure the effectiveness of our action and our initiatives.

Connie commented that the original purpose of the survey was to develop an internal instrument to guide the commission in the decision making process for our strategic planning.

VII. 2016 Executive Committee Slate

According to the bylaws, the executive committee serves one year (calendar year).

The 2016 executive committee slate was presented. The slate was: Soraya Kim - Vice-Chair, Toshiki Masaki – Secretary, and Ryan Rosario – Trustee. No objection to the slate. Roland motioned to accept the nominations, Mahima seconded. Nomination approved.

Jamie thanked to the former executive committee members – Connie Dang, Asim Alavi and Tsu-Yin Wu for their service.

VIII. Administrative Update

Denise Y Grim presented a draft sponsorship request form to be used for any sponsorship inquiries. The process of approval is two-three weeks and the forms will be submitted to the executive committee for approval. There was no objections or changes to the form. The form will be used for future sponsorship request inquiries.

Mary McLellan shared the 2016 members of the Civil Rights Commission. The members are: Deloris Hunt and Rasha Demashkieh (reappointed) and Laura Reyes-Kopack (new appointee).

IX. 2016 Regular Commission Meetings Schedule

The commissioners agreed on the following dates:

- Friday, March 11th
- Friday, June 17th
- Saturday, September 10th
- Friday, December 9th

Venues will be determined at a later time.

IX. New Business:

Roland Hwang shared the following schedule of the Korematsu presentation and Karen Korematsu's visit.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016: 7:30 am to 8:50 am (first period - seminar hour)

Northville High School Auditorium, 45700 Six Mile Road, west of Sheldon, Northville Township.

Wednesday, January 27, 2016: Karen Korematsu will be meeting with the APA Legislative Caucus and attend a press conference to push the Fred Korematsu bill in the legislation.

Thursday, January 28, 2016: First presentation: 11:45 am to 1:00 pm at University of Michigan Law School, South Hall, Room 1225, Ann Arbor, MI. Co-hosted by U-M Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA). Second presentation: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Grand Valley State University, Cook DeWitt Auditorium, Allendale, MI. Co-hosted by GVSU Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Sheryl Weir and Kim Hekman of MDHHS shared the data collection process and some of the results from the 2012 Asian/Pacific Islander Behavioral Risk Factors Survey. They are seeking help from the commission in the contextual results of the data. Also, asked the question, 'what might be the next data project in 2016– what we should look of the Asian sub population community.' Comments can be directed to them or through Tsu-Yin Wu. A few copies of the survey results were distributed to the commissioners and an electronic version will be emailed to the commissioners.

X. Public Comments

No public comments

XI. Announcements

Anand Kumar shared that a torrential rain storm had hit the southeastern coast of India and the entire city of Chennai is submerged in water. There is a link on MIIIndia.com for donation to help aid the people of the city.

Mahima Mahadevan shared an email from the Asia Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC) in Connecticut. They are facing some challenges with the CT state legislature who are trying to eliminate the Commission and are asking for solidarity and support from other APA Commissions across the country. They are asking MAPAAC to send a letter of support to share the importance of a commission. Jamie commented that we can send a letter about what we have accomplished and show how useful our commission has been and its impact on the APA community in Michigan.

Roland commented that it would be good to get some historical context of the commission. Toshiki supported the action of sending a letter along with our brochure and flyers. Bing suggested for them to contact the organizations they partner with and solicit information for their cause. Jamie will respond to the email.

XII. Adjournment:

A motion from Nasim Ansari motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Roland Hwang.
Motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Denise Yee Grim, December 18, 2015

Minutes submitted by

Toshiki Masaki, Secretary